

The Woman's Forum

WOMAN'S SPHERE? "THE WORLD," ANSWERS ONE

Suffragists and Antis Agree That the "Sphere" So Kicked About and Fought Over in Debate Is the Home, but Disagree on What Is Home.

"Home is woman's sphere." As Dickens's *Cap'n Cuttle* once remarked: "The bearin' o' this observation lies in the application o' it." Suffragists were not known in *Cap'n Cuttle's* time, though his landlady, Mrs. Macstinger, would have made an effective one; so the cap'n wasn't discussing feminism. But if he were here to-day, and heard an anti-suffragist say that home was woman's sphere, could he make a wiser answer than that the bearings of that observation lay in the application of it?

HOME IS WOMAN'S SPHERE.

"Home is woman's sphere," says Mrs. John Martin. "Her own home, where her husband and children are. Her home, her husband, her children should be her peculiar care, and it is greatly to be regretted that so many women go out from their homes into the world to do, or try to do, man's work. It is the man's job to do the work of the world; it is the woman's job to keep the home for the man."

But how, argues Mrs. Gilmann, can a woman keep a home properly just by staying in it? Take the matter of eggs and meat, for instance. How is a wife and mother to do her duty by her family, who need fresh eggs and meat, without the power to deal properly with the cold storage man?

HER SPHERE IS THE WORLD.

"The home and motherhood are said to be woman's sphere. Her business, she is told, is to reproduce the species. Why, the dark-skinned tribes in Africa do that! No, woman's business, civilized woman's business, is to improve the quality and conditions of human life, and as long as one-half the people of a country—that is to say, the women—are shut out from participation in the law-making of that country, it isn't reaching a very high degree of civilization, and its efforts toward improving the quality and conditions of life are hampered and one-sided. Woman is shut out from her sphere and the country suffers."

"We say that it is the mother's sphere to care for her own babies—that she is divinely ordained to care for her own babies—and we never count the dead babies! The mother's sphere is wherever there are babies, her own or others, that need looking after, wherever she can learn how best to look after them, wherever she can influence conditions and help make the world a good home for them."

HOME IS EXPENSIVE NOW.

"We hear a good deal about cooking—home cooking—being a large part of woman's sphere. Would every man cook for himself? Would a man cook for another man, generally speaking? He would not. Home as now constituted is a very expensive way of living. The woman who keeps strictly within her sphere, doing home cooking for her family, or hiring an individual servant or servants to cook just for them, is false to one of the tenets of her sphere, which is economy. The woman's work is to conserve, and anything more wasteful than the individualistic method of housekeeping it is impossible to imagine. I don't mean that it is woman's sphere to destroy the separate home. Let the home be kept in all its privacy, but let not woman spend her energies in making individual pence and cooking individual cabbage. Let her sphere widen to embrace huge kitchens where these things can be done in the businesslike way in which men conduct their affairs."

"Men do things in common. In times of danger from outside forces men don't rush each of them to defend his own roof; they band together to defend themselves collectively. That is the human instinct, and the sooner woman learns that she is human first and woman afterward the sooner she will learn the inevitability of her sphere."

OUT OF LIMITED SPHERE.

Mrs. Norman Whitehouse, the young chairman of the 15th Senatorial District for the Women's Political Union, tried hard to content herself with a sphere that meant largely dancing and dressing and going to parties and seeing that home just her own home, was pleasant. But that didn't satisfy her, and she began to wish that she could do something for suffrage, which seemed to her to promise a sphere that meant more than dancing and dressing.

"I wanted to do something for suffrage," she said the other day, "but at first I couldn't see how, because I could only dress and dance and go to dinner parties. Then last spring I discovered that I could march in the parade, and carry a banner, and now I have discovered that I can make a speech. And life seems to mean so much more—it is so splendid to feel one's self part of a great movement, which will make the world better for many people."

"A woman's sphere," Mrs. Thomas Hepburn, president of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, said, "a woman's sphere is to make the town in which she lives, the world in which she lives, a safer place for her own and other children to live in. A woman is wholly within her sphere when she asks herself, 'Do I want my sons to grow up in a city where there are evil houses?' and most rightfully within her sphere when she demands the ballot for a weapon with which to attack evil houses."

"A woman's sphere?" said Miss Mary E. Miller, a lawyer, of Chicago, "a woman's sphere is any place that she can fill." And as Miss Miller received a fee of \$22.50 for one case recently it looks as if she had filled the sphere of the law pretty successfully.

Mrs. John Purroy Mitchell, wife of the man who will soon take his seat as Mayor

of New York City, though she is a suffragist, is one who believes that her own personal sphere lies chiefly within the four walls of her home.

"I cannot speak or do anything in public," she said one day. "I think that the work for me to do is to make my husband's home pleasant for him, to take care of his health, to make him happy and comfortable."

A Courtesy Drill for Car Conductors

To the Editor of The Tribune Woman's Forum.

Will The Tribune allow me to suggest through its much-thought-of columns, to the management of our trolley lines an occasional courtesy drill for their conductors; to add to the comfort of their cars as a means of surface transit, instead of the stair-climbing of elevated and subway?

I have seen many a lively "scrap" between conductors and passengers, which of course was none of my business—brushes with women usually. As a rule women do not drink or smoke and they are not generally quarrelsome. They are a majority of the passengers, however, and then there may be a wholesome awe of masculine lists. At any rate, it is commonly a woman who gets the cudgeling.

I doubt if the fact that Eastern women have not the suffrage yet and are not militant has anything to do with it. Trolley conductors are not usually office seekers. A little good drill, with a hint at a possible loss of job, would probably set matters right.

Yesterday I started home from church with only a one dollar bill in my purse. I offered it to the conductor to change and take out my fare. He glanced at it, and instantly he boiled over with wrath. Waving the bit of paper over his head, like a battle-flag, he roared like a lion; and I didn't know but he would throw me off the car or hand me over to a policeman.

"I expect me to give you change for a ten-dollar bill in neckties and dimes—do you?"

I took back the bill, and found that, sure enough, the bit of paper that had been lying low in my portmanteau, masquerading as a one, had turned out to be a ten! What a fine thing it would be to have a similar surprise in a bit of manuscript.

"Well," thought I, in due awe of my Charity Chapter, "the poor fellow is cold and hungry and cross; and though there may be nothing flashy or shabby in my appearance, he fancied that I meant to do the company out of a fare." So I asked him to let me off, to go back and get the change.

Having adjusted that, I boarded the next up-town car. I fumbled in my bag a little awkwardly to get the change. There was nobody waiting. I was in nobody's way; but I was recalled to my shortcomings by the conductor's patronizing instructions that I should "alms lev de change vere I could git it at quick; an' not keep nobody waitin'."

I informed him that he was right. During my twenty-four years' residence in the city I had ridden on the streetcars a few times, and I was sure he was right. American gentlemen the world over are chivalrously polite to ladies. Trolley companies cannot always afford to employ gentlemen. Those two conductors were from the other side of the sea—one from where they swing shillelahs for fun and

afternoon at the Waldorf-Astoria. It will be in charge of the music committee, with Miss Katharine Hike, chairman. Preceding the music Mrs. G. Upton Halleck will give a ten-minute talk on "Current Events," and Mrs. A. A. Fisher will speak on "California History."

There will be a social hour from 2:45 to 3:30 o'clock, when the club will take pleasure in receiving all Californians, whether resident or visiting in the city.

Last Tuesday the St. Cecilia Society gave its annual reception at the Bronx Park bathhouse. The evening began with a musical programme, given by members of the society, under the directorship of Mrs. Henrietta Speke Seely. After the programme a supper was served. The guests of honor were Miss Florence Guernsey, president of the New York City Federation; Mrs. A. M. Palmer, president of the Rainy Day Club; Mrs. Thomas J. Vivian, president of the Congress of States Societies; Mrs. Charles D. Hirst, president of the Pure Food Alliance; Miss Lulu E. Varian, president of the Athenaeum Club; and Mrs. R. Constantine, president of the Bronx Book and Thimble Club.

On their study day, Tuesday, December 9, the Theatre Club (Mrs. J. Christopher Barker, president) held a discussion of "At Bay." Mrs. Oberdorfer was chairman of study and Mrs. Helen Wells was chairman of discussion. Tuesday evening, December 16, and Wednesday afternoon, December 17, the Theatre Club will attend the performance of "The Temperamental Journey."

A card party will be held at the Hotel Astor on January 2, Mrs. J. E. Kelly, chairman. The next social day will be Tuesday, December 23.

The next social meeting of the Californians in New York will be held on Saturday evening, December 20, at 8:30 p. m., at the home of the president, Mrs. David Mason, No. 461 Fort Washington avenue, corner of 181st street. Following the programme there will be a reception and dance at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leavitt, No. 714 West 181st st.

There were fifty tables of players at the card party given at the Waldorf-Astoria, last Saturday by the Washington Heights Chapter, Daughters of the American

MRS. CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN.

the other from a land where women and cattle are harnessed together to do the ploughing. A little drill in American manners would make them more agreeable in their service.

JENNIE FOWLER-WILLING.
New York City.

Poor Spirit Not to Share His Name

To the Editor of The Tribune Woman's Forum.

Sir: The potential moods of the new women, those restless leaves of feminine humanity, tossed hither and yon by every wind of modern doctrine—are viewed by the happy acquiescent, womanly woman with an adaptable focus of pity and amusement generally, but this fast cry of the new woman for a married woman to repudiate the honorable title of her self-chosen husband is an insult to normal, married women, and makes one feel that it is simply an absurd, spurious theory advanced only for notoriety, and having its origin in hatred and malice toward mankind on the part of discontented, disappointed females.

Its one practical argument of the married actress being known by her own name begs the question: An actress is a professional woman, catering to the public; her name, not her own, but a nom de plume, as a rule, the advertisement of that profession. In private life the married actress is proud to be known by her husband's name.

A married doctor's name is amply distinguished from her doctor-husband by her Christian name prefixing her married title. For a married woman to name would be to compromise herself, her children, if a mother, defy the country's laws of propriety, and those of decent society, also place an outrage upon womanhood's prerogatives. If Mrs. John Brown (née Jane Jones) desires to be an independent partner in her marriage firm, let her be known as Mrs. Jane Jones-Brown, the children adopting the hyphen likewise.

To me it appears a poor species of independence in a woman to share the support of a man, yet refuse to share his name. Any man who yields to the display is a weakling. N. G. M.
Elizabeth, N. J.

AN APPRECIATION.

Editor of the Woman's Forum.

I am a reader of your paper and want to thank you for the interesting and clean paper you are giving us. I shall be glad to see the Woman's Forum and believe it will be a success. Sincerely yours,

MARY D. FISKE,
Chairman Committee of Literature, New York State Federation of Women's Clubs.
No. 1547 Wilkins avenue, New York.

THE WEEK'S VARIED ACTIVITIES IN CLUBLAND

The third meeting of the season of Eclectic (Miss Florence Guernsey, president) was held Wednesday at the Waldorf-Astoria. It was attended by a large number of members and forty guests. The business meeting was followed by a programme. The report of Mrs. William Douglas May and Mrs. Stratton, delegates for Eclectic to the convention of the State Federation of Women's Clubs at Buffalo, was read by Mrs. Eldridge J. Moore. Mrs. Frank G. Burke, chairman of the day, led the discussion on "The Responsibility of Parents." Dr. Jennie Leizer, Mrs. Arthur Elliot Fish and Mrs. Lawrence Burns spoke on the subject. Mrs. Carrie Martin Cowlan had charge of the musical programme. Luncheon followed the meeting.

The next meeting of the Woman's Forum, of which Miss Helen Varick Boswell is president, will be held on Friday morning, December 19, in the assembly room of the Waldorf-Astoria. Marcus M. Marks, President-elect of the Borough of Manhattan, will state briefly some of his views as to the administration of his office. Robert Adamson, secretary to the Mayor, will speak on "Modern Methods of Campaigning," including the use of schoolhouses as political gathering places, and Mrs. Charles Dana Gibberling places, and Mrs. Charles Dana Gibberling will tell of the "Big Sister" movement. Miss Boswell will preside.

The National Society of United States Daughters of 1812, with its many guests and subscribers, filled the ballroom at Sherry's last Friday and Saturday to listen to the scheduled "Talks on Current Topics," as given by Miss Janet Richards. The next two talks will be held on Friday, the 19th, and Saturday, 20th, at 10:45 o'clock a. m., at the same place. Mrs. William Gerry Slade, the president, will be in charge.

The political science committee, with Mrs. Belle de Rivera, chairman, presented a programme at the last meeting of the Post Parliament, of which Mrs. John Fowler Trow is president. The subject was "The Federal Income Tax." On December 28 there will be a meeting held specially to arrange the details of the "most parliament," which is an annual feature of the club's season.

The National California Club in New York (Mrs. Thomas J. Vivian, president) will give its annual musical Tuesday

Suffrage Is a Real Time Saver

To the Editor of The Tribune Woman's Forum.

Especially as my paternal grandmother was a Lawrence, I am glad to explain my position to Mr. R. A. Lawrence, of Plainfield, N. J.

1. The teaching of the Woman's Suffrage Study Club does not advise a woman's party.

I earnestly deprecate anything that leads to sex antagonism.

The women of to-day are educated, self-reliant, public spirited; they are filled with vigor and activity; they work for the public good, and yet at every turn are handicapped by being unable to express their convictions at the polls.

Women of Massachusetts went to the Legislature every year for fifty-five years urging the passage of a law that would give to a mother an equal legal right over her children with the father. On the fifty-fifth year the law was passed. In 1853 the women of Colorado got the vote. This same law was passed there the first year.

And so, Mr. Lawrence, I believe that women could have a more definite influence on the life of the nation. Is there any other way of helping so direct, so economical of time?

A vote represents a maximum amount of achievement with a minimum expenditure of time and energy. More permanent good can be accomplished in five years of intelligent voting than by indirect and roundabout methods in fifty.

EDNA WADSWORTH MOODY,
President of Woman's Suffrage Study Club.
New York.

Husbands of Feminists Should Protest

MRS. ALICE FOOTE M'DOUGALL.

2. What is Mr. Lawrence's authority for saying that 99 per cent of the women do not want to vote?

In history, all reforms have been urged by minorities. It is the vision of one generation that brings the reality in the next.

3. Of course women would abide by the decision of the majority, why not? Is this not the basis of our present government?

Why is Mr. Lawrence so bitter? Is it so hard to understand why women do not wish to be governed with no voice in the government? Did not my ancestors and his wage war for seven years because they refused to be governed and to be taxed without representation? Does my sex bar me out from the inheritance of the spirit of my forefathers?

Can Mr. Lawrence believe that the law that excludes me from the suffrage is right or just? To sir, believe me, one-half of the adult population have no right to rule the other half. Men decide on how

the season at one of the leading hotels. Earle Wayne has been engaged as conductor of the club chorus.

A members' meeting of the Century Theatre Club was held on Friday, December 12, at the Hotel Astor. Mrs. James N. Ballantine, chairman of study, gave a talk on "Symbolism in Drama," which was illustrated later by the dramatic reader, Mrs. A. Ann Wentworth, of Brooklyn. By arrangement of Mrs. Thomas Gibson, chairman of matinees, nearly 200 members attended a performance of "Grumpy" at Waldorf's Theatre on Wednesday, December 3.

The next social meeting will be held on Friday, December 26, and the subject of "Grand Opera" will be introduced by Mrs. August Dreyer and Mrs. A. O. Thibault.

"Southland" met on Friday in the studio of Mrs. Maxwell Fuller on Riverside Drive. Mrs. William Washington Ford is president of the club.

The Knickerbocker Relief Club will hold their annual festival and bazaar at the Waldorf-Astoria on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, December 20. There will be dancing both afternoon and evening.

The Woman's Political Union will hold a suffrage mass meeting in the Morning-side Presbyterian Church, No. 86 Morning-side avenue East, on Wednesday evening, December 17, under the auspices of the 15th Senatorial district committee. The Rev. Alan W. McCurdy will be chairman of the meeting and the speakers will be Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain and Miss Helen Todd.

Reginald Pelham Bolton and Dr. E. Stagg Whitin will be the speakers of the West End Women's Republican Association on Thursday afternoon, December 14, at the Hotel Astor. Mr. Bolton will speak of the attempts of certain interests to grab state and national scenic wonders. Dr. Whitin will tell of the work of the Honest Ballot Association. Mrs. Roy Emory Fletcher will be chairman of the day.

The Harmony Fellowship Club, Mrs. William B. Smith, president, held the third meeting of the season at the Hotel Astor Wednesday, December 10. About two hundred members and guests were present.

ALICE FOOTE MAC DOUGALL.

New York City.

MRS. NORMAN WHITEHOUSE.

much taxes a woman must pay, and for what the money shall be spent. Men make all the laws which either directly or indirectly affect women, and I know of no law that does not either directly or indirectly affect women. If women transgress the law their punishment is meted out by men.

The effect of evil conditions is felt by women, the effect of unwise legislation or the absence of adequate legislation, and yet they are powerless to express their political opinion or to use the vote as a practical protest.

The women of to-day are educated, self-reliant, public spirited; they are filled with vigor and activity; they work for the public good, and yet at every turn are handicapped by being unable to express their convictions at the polls. Women of Massachusetts went to the Legislature every year for fifty-five years urging the passage of a law that would give to a mother an equal legal right over her children with the father. On the fifty-fifth year the law was passed. In 1853 the women of Colorado got the vote. This same law was passed there the first year.

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New York City.

WOMAN'S LIMITATIONS OUTLINED BY READER

Her Brain Far from Equal of Man's, Says Mrs. MacDougall in Letter to Woman's Forum, and She Is Not Ready for New Responsibilities.

ALICE FOOTE MAC DOUGALL SAYS:

1. The ballot's a poor little thing.
2. How many women to-day could run the District Attorney's office?
3. That woman is man's equal seems rash and ridiculous.
4. Women in society or in business are unable to control their emotions, to govern their prejudices, to determine upon a given line of action and stick to it.
5. When driven to a corner they (women) will use questionable methods. Perhaps this is why suffragists are confident of success as politicians.
6. It seems a pitiful thing to think of the fuss some women are making about the ballot.

To the Editor of The Tribune Woman's Forum.

There are two helpful ways of approach to the suffrage question which may give light to those who are neutral or, if for suffrage, are yet open minded enough to concede a viewpoint other than their own:

One is to recognize woman's actual limitations.

The other is to realize that her sphere of usefulness is almost unlimited. The first is not easy to explain, for it lies in the make-up of the brain. Unfortunately, so many perfectly good words have by their abuse recently become "bywords and hissing" that one hesitates to avail herself of them. But the "feminine" brain has such obvious limitations that to a business woman or one accustomed to close association with the masculine type of brain the statement that woman is in every way man's equal and therefore entitled to the same privileges seems rash and ridiculous.

The distinction is not easy to define, but in it lies the real reason for woman's unfitness for public life. Whether we meet a woman in society or in business, we find her unable to control her emotions, to govern her prejudices, to determine upon a given line of action and stick to it. They are moreover not sufficiently scrupulous; when driven to a corner they will use methods of a questionable character to accomplish their ends. Perhaps this is the very reason why the suffrage leaders feel confident of their success as politicians!

It is difficult for a woman to follow the suggestion of Emerson, "to see life simple and see it whole." I note this inability to see things "spherically" when I meet women in education and business circles. The professor of higher mathematics at college knows her subject and is entirely capable of taking care of herself. She is therefore in favor of suffrage because she claims a complete equality with man. Well, given specialized knowledge and the ability of self-protection, it is a little difficult to say just why she isn't. As a matter of fact, the most self-reliant, capable teacher I know is often utterly devoid of imagination, utterly lacking in sympathy and understanding of what is really essential to the well-being and the general development of the student in her class. She can elucidate the most obscure problem in trigonometry, but she couldn't give a single idea to the girl who is face to face with the problem of three children and a drunken husband.

To a woman who says "I am man's equal" I say "Try it and see." Don't fool yourself that you are a lawyer because you have an office and a good law library. I wonder how many women to-day could conduct the office of District Attorney?

Don't think because you can run a

Amelioration of labor conditions—control of venereal diseases—may or may not be accomplished by act of legislation. It is hard to determine just where the evil ends and the good is to begin, and one views with actual fear the well intentioned, but often misguided, efforts of the "Social Reformer."

That is a woman's sphere—that is her real responsibility and the solution of the problem of the social evil; of Eugenics, of marriage and divorce—that is what a woman has to do. As she makes herself so will her sphere broaden or narrow. As she makes her home so will her child develop or retrograde. Out of her understanding and sympathy with her husband comes her creative force in politics, in Church and in society.

When one realizes what it is to be a woman in the broad sense it seems a pitiful thing to think of the fuss some women are making about being voters. When one realizes the empty hollowness of some homes, one does not feel surprised at the rottenness of the state.

Theoretically, the suffrage controversy seems stupid. Many believe that suffrage is already far too general. Every sane person knows that "some" women are just as good as "some" men, and that the average is a bit in the man's favor because of his more extended opportunities, his clearer method of thought, his lengthened period of equipment. We don't see much clean politics in Colorado. We do see much harm from the abolishment of the caucus—the one act of legislation preeminently attributable to women.

But to the woman who is really intent on fulfilling her duties the franchise seems small in comparison. Florence Nightingale didn't waste time on hunger strikes or "pulling horses." Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton did not have the ballot, but they do not seem to have much hindered in accomplishing the great purposes to which they dedicated themselves. And it is just this that makes the hunger strike and the hiking hiker ridiculous.

Given a brain and a sincere purpose and life opens up so many possibilities that the struggle is not to assume more but to fit ourselves for those life has already prepared.

In the eyes of women who realize their real duties and responsibilities the ballot seems a poor little thing—the suffrage movement more or less a wasting of valuable time—at best a safety valve for certain individuals who otherwise might become a public nuisance.

The intelligent woman of to-day does not seek the ballot, for she knows its influence in her home and through her influence the great problems of the day are gradually but firmly being solved. Because she knows that a far greater privilege is the privilege of creating legislators and the mothers of legislators—knowing that in their success lies the defeat of her fondest hopes, her highest functions, her fullest liberty.

ALICE FOOTE MAC DOUGALL.

New York City.